

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-06  
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
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AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
/US MISSION IAEA VIENNA 217  
US MISSION EC BRUSSELS 289  
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO  
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 1653

EO 11652 GDS  
TAGS TECH, ENGR PARM BR GW OVIP (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN)  
SUBJECT: THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BRAZIL: PRESS REACTION

1. SUMMARY. THE BRAZILIAN PRESS JUDGES THAT THE DEPUTY  
SECRETARY'S MEETINGS WITH THE BOG REACHED AN IMPASSE, WITH  
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EACH SIDE EXPRESSING ITS OWN VIEWS. ANY GOB PUBLIC SIGNALS OF  
REACTION TO THE MEETINGS MIGHT NOT SURFACE FOR SEVERAL DAYS.  
THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS ON MARCH 1, HOWEVER, MIGHT HASTEN  
AND STRENGTHEN ANY OFFICIAL PUBLIC REACTION TO US NUCLEAR POLICY  
INITIATIVES. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE. THE TWO PARTIES EXCHANGED VIEWS ON

NUCLEAR SUBJECTS AND ENERGY NEEDS. EACH SIDE WILL CONSIDER THE POSITIONS EXPRESSED BY THE OTHER. THERE WILL BE FURTHER TALKS ON THESE MATTERS. END TEXT".

3. ALL THREE MAJOR NEWSPAPERS( O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, JORNAL DO BRAZIL, AND GAZETA MERCANTIL) INTERPRETED THE COMMUNIQUE, COMBINED WITH OTHER INDICATIONS, AS IMPLYING AN IMPASSE. JORNAL'S INTERPRETATION WAS: "(1) THERE WAS NO PROGRESS IN THE CONCILIATION OF BRAZILIAN AND AMERICAN POINTS OF VIEW.

(2) THE BRAZILIAN NEGOTIATORS HAD OPPOSED THE AMERICAN ALLEGATION OF THE RISKS OF ACCESS TO ADVANCED NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY, AND (COMMENT: HAD STRESSED) THE URGENT NECESSITY OF FINDING NEW SOURCES OF ENERGY; AND (3) THE DOOR TO NEW EXCHANGES OF VIEWS WAS NOT CLOSED AND CONVERSATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE." GAZETA COMMENTED THAT "EVERTHING INDICATES" THAT THE TWO PARTIES MAINTAINED THEIR INITIAL FIRM POSITIONS. MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND A "POINT OF EQUILIBRIUM." O ESTADO SAW THE MEETINGS AS ONLY "EXPLORATORY, PERMITTING THE TWO COUNTRIES TO EXPRESS DEFINITIVELY THEIR POSITIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE NUCLEAR PROBLEM."

REGARDING THE COMMUNIQUE, O ESTADO COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS: "IN THE OPINION OF SPECIALISTS, THE LACONIC COMMUNIQUE HAS THREE KEY WORDS: VIEWS, POSITIONS, AND CONVERSATIONS. THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS INDICATES THAT THE MEETING WAS NOT CONCLUSIVE, THAT THE INTERLOCUTORS ONLY WERE SOUNDING OUT THE FUTURE POSSIBILITIES FOR FORWARD AND BACKWARD MOVES IN THE POSTIONS OF EACH OTHER. THE AFFIRMATION THAT EACH PARTY WILL "CONSIDER" THE POSITION OF THE OTHER SIGNIFIES THAT BOTH POSITIONS, AS IS WELL KNOWN, WERE REITERATED CLEARLY IN THE MEETING. BUT THE WORD 'CONVERSATIONS' IS

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THE ONE THAT DESCRIBES EXACTLY THE LEVEL OF THE MEETING."

4. FONMIN SILVEIRA, WHO TALKED WITH REPORTERS AT THE CONGRESS IN BETWEEN THE MORNING AND AFTERNOON MEETINGS WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, GAVE AN OPTIMISTIC RESPONSE TO REPORTERS' QUESTIONS ON HOW THE MEETINGS WERE GOING: LAUGHING, ACCORDING TO GAZETA, SILVEIRA SAID "EVERTHING IS GOING VERY WELL. EXCELLENT." ASKED ABOUT US PRESSURES, SILVEIRA REPORTEDLY RESPONDED GOOD-HUMOREDLY: "I THINK I AM INSENSITIVE TO THEM." ASKED ABOUT THE "NEGOTIATIONS," SILVEIRA RESPONDED: "THEY ARE NOT NEGOTIATIONS, ONLY CONVERSATIONS," ACCORDING TO O ESTADO. REPORTERS ASKED ABOUT THE "PACT OF SILENCE" (COMMENT: A REFERENCE TO THE PRESS'S INTERPRETATION OF THE PUBLIC SILENCE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, THE US DELEGATION, AND THE EMBASSY ON THE NUCLEAR QUESTIONS) SILVEIRA GAVE AS THE REASON : "THE AMERICANS ASKED THAT WE NOT MAKE ANY COMMENT AND WE AGREED."

5. AN OPPOSITION LEADER, SENATOR SATURNINO BRAGA, ACCORDING TO O ESTADO (MARCH 2), EXPRESSED AGAIN THE OPPOSITION'S SUPPORT

FOR THE GOVERNMENT ON THE NUCLEAR ISSUE: "REPEATEDLY, THROUGH DECLARATIONS AND PRONOUNCEMENTS,(THE OPPOSITION PARTY HAS GIVEN) ALL ITS SUPPORT TO THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT ON THIS SUBJECT."

6. THE PRESS REPORTED STRAIGHT THE SECRETARY'S MARCH 1 REMARKS IN CONGRESS THAT THE US WILL ADOPT "REWARDS AND SANCTIONS" ( JORNAL DO BRASIL) IN SUPPORT OF US NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY.

7. COMMENT. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANYTHING IN TODAY'S PRESS CAN BE READ AS CONVEYING A SIGNAL OF IMMEDIATE SPECIAL INTEREST TO US. IT MAY TAKE SEVERAL DAYS FOR ANY GOB REACTIONS TO THE MEETINGS TO SURFACE, OFFICIALLY OR IN THE MORE PREVALENT BACKGROUNDER. IF EDITORIALS ON THE NUCLEAR QUESTION IN MAJOR PAPERS APPEAR AS INFREQUENTLY OVER THE NEXT WEEK AS THEY HAVE APPEARED IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS, THE HAND OF GOVERNMENTAL GUIDANCE IS LIKELY TO BE THE REASON. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT FIND SOME EDITORIALS SUPPORTIVE OF BRAZIL'S VIEWS TO BE USEFUL IN THE WEEKS  
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AHEAD.

8. IN OUR JUDGMENT, THE ABSOLUTE SILENCE OF USG SOURCES HERE DURING AND BEFORE THE VISIT PROBABLY WILL ATTENUATE ANY WAVE OF PRESS AND OFFICIAL INDIGNATION OVER US NUCLEAR POLICY INITIATIVES. OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS WE HAVE HAD FOUR DISTINCT WAVES, EACH FOLLOWING A US PRONOUNCEMENT OR OTHER EXPRESSION OF VIEWS. THE RECENT SILENCE HAS HELPED GIVE THE PRESS LESS UPON WHICH TO FIX ITS SIGHTS--AND POSSIBLY LESS AGAINST WHICH THE GOB HAS PERCEIVED IT HAS HAD TO REACT PUBLICLY. THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS YESTERDAY, HOWEVER, MAY HASTEN AND STRENGTHEN ANY OFFICIAL PUBLIC REACTIONS TO US NUCLEAR POLICY INITIATIVES.  
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